MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 30-31, 1922.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1922 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C., Tuesday, May 30, and Wednesday, May 31, 1922.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Greenleaf;
Mr. Fraser;
Mr. Ayres.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary, served as Secretary of the meeting in the absence of Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held April 27 and 28, 1922, were approved.

2. PERSONNEL: The Commission having been informed that the appropriation item for the Commission of Fine Arts as contained in the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill for the fiscal year 1923 eliminates the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds as Secretary of the Commission, the Commission decided that the Assistant to the Secretary be appointed Acting Secretary of the Commission, and adopted the following Resolution:

> "RESOLVED, That Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary, be hereby appointed Acting Secretary, Executive and Disbursing Officer, of the Commission of Fine Arts, effective July 1, 1922, and he is directed to enter into sufficient bond to cover these duties."

The Commission further directed that if the law permits the cost of the bond to be required by the Treasury Department for Mr. Caemmerer be made chargeable to the Commission. (Exhibit A).

The Commission expressed their desire to have Colonel Sherrill attend the meetings of the Commission as heretofore, and that in the next Budget and Appropriation Bill the item pertaining to the Commission of Fine Arts be restored so as to be the same as during the fiscal year 1922.

3. DOMINICAN CAMPAIGN BADGE: On May 3, 1922 the Commission received a letter from the Secretary of the Navy submitting designs for the proposed Dominican Campaign Badge. The Commission found the designs were made for the most part by commercial firms, without artistic merit, and recommended that until the Navy Department could set apart a sufficient sum to cover a proper design made by a competent medallist, no medals be executed. (Exhibit B).

4. GRALUND MONUMENT FOR ARLINGTON: Under date of May 16, 1922, Colonel Penrose submitted a sketch for the proposed Gralund Monument for Arlington by letter as follows:

> "The enclosed sketch showing the design and inscription for a monument which Major Otto J. Gralund desires to erect on his lot #4653, Officers' Section, Southern Division of the Arlington National Cemetery, to the memory of his wife who is buried therein, is submitted for the action of the Commission, as it does not correspond with the customary designs which are permitted to be erected in that cemetery."

The Commission disapproved the design. In the consideration of the design the Commission discussed at length the policy in force of erecting monuments in Arlington. Mr. Moore stated that in 1916 the War Department, with the cooperation of the Commission of Fine Arts, adopted regulations for the erection of monuments in Arlington, which are being pretty well adhered to, particularly as to size, and that at the time the Commission suggested to the War Department certain types of monuments for Arlington. Mr. Ayres and Mr. Fraser urged that any one submitting a design for a monument to the Commission should be required to submit a scale drawing with a location plan and a scale

model. The drawing should be on the scale of 3/4" to the foot and the model on the scale of 2" to the foot. The Commission concurred in this and decided to take up with Colonel Penrose the question of having adopted the necessary amendments to the existing regulations, together with such other amendments as might be agreed upon with him as part of the existing regulations for the erection of monuments in the Arlington National Cemetery. (Exhibit C).

5. STATUE TO A BASEBALL PLAYER: The Commission considered various items for a preliminary program of competition for a proposed statue to a baseball player which the American League of Baseball Clubs desires to erect in Washington and tentatively agreed that the monument should cost $50,000, of which $5,000 should be set apart for prizes and incidental expenses; that with the approval of Congress and the Chief of Engineers East Potomac Park be selected for the location of the statue. The Commission suggested for the statue a bronze figure of a baseball player, or a group of figures, placed on a pedestal of dark granite. The program of competition should be printed with a print showing the location of the monument. The sculptors of the United States should be invited by the American League of Baseball Clubs to compete in the preliminary competition from which a jury would select five for a final competition in which four sculptors of national reputation would be invited to compete.

The Commission recommended that Mr. Johnson, President of the American League of Baseball Clubs, be consulted and that the necessary authority for erecting the statue be secured and a definite site selected before further action is taken in this matter by the Commission.

6. ERICSSON MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore said that on May 18, 1922 he received a letter from Mr. H. F. J. Porter, of New York City, suggesting a repository

or museum underneath the Ericsson Memorial for Captain Ericsson's medals, models, diplomas and other mementos.

The Commission gave the matter careful consideration and decided that it would be inadvisable to permit such a repository underneath the Ericsson Memorial. (Exhibit D).

7. THE MALL: The Commission expressed their desire to see at the earliest opportunity the models of the City of Washington made by the Senate Park Commission of 1901, which are now in the National Museum. Mr. Moore reported that he had secured the consent of Dr. Walcott to have them placed on the ground floor where it will be convenient for the public to see them. Mr. Greenleaf called attention to the importance of considering the Mall development as part of the Plan of Washington, and of considering the Mall as an entire scheme in its completed form. Mr. Greenleaf said that Mr. Payne, Landscape Architect of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, has been, under Colonel Sherrill's directions, working on a complete set of grading plans for the Mall from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, and that it is proposed to gradually complete them. Mr. Ayres called attention to the importance of giving proper balance to the vista drives of the Mall in their relation to the varying grades or undulations proposed in the treatment of the Mall area.

8. MODEL FOR MONUMENT TO UNKNOWN AMERICAN: At the request of Colonel Penrose the Commission inspected at his office a model for the monument to the Unknown American, to be erected in front of the Arlington Amphitheater. The model, representing an ornamental casket on a pylon, was designed by Mr. Thomas Hastings, the architect of the Amphitheater, and in form and mass was approved by the Commission. The Commission recommended a simplification of the sculptural adornments at the top of the monument. (Exhibit E).

9. HOWARD UNIVERSITY: Dr. Emmett J. Scott, Secretary-Treasurer of

Howard University, appeared before the Commission with plans for the development of the Howard University grounds. Dr. Scott stated that they were erecting the Home Economics and Dining Hall building, in accordance with plans approved by the Com ission, and that they desire advice with reference to the treatment of the grounds of the University as they adjoin McMillan Park. Dr. Scott stated it is proposed to erect a gymnasium on the grounds north of the present building under construction, and that they own grounds north to Hobart Street. Also Dr. Scott urged the extension of Vermont Avenue, northeast from Florida Avenue to Howard Place, and the creation of a circle where Georgia Avenue, Howard Place and the extended Vermont Avenue would join. He said the extension of Vermont Avenue would be a great help to their University and also to the city in providing a direct approach from Florida Avenue, northeast, to McMillan Park.

The Commission expressed their interest in the suggestions of Dr. Scott, and decided to inspect the grounds during the afternoon, at which time the Commission were in conference also with Dr. J. Stanley Durkee, President of the University. The Commission concurred in the recommendations as set forth by Dr. Scott. Various landscape features for the improvement of the grounds were considered by the Commission. Instead of a terrace wall along the east side of the grounds adjoining McMillan Park the Commission thought an adequate fill and sodding with space for a walk would be preferable. As to the west side of the grounds the Commission observed the advantages which would result from the proposed extension of Vermont Avenue and from acquiring certain lots in the vicinity, which would give the University an unbroken frontage on Georgia Avenue.

10. FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL: The Commission considered a plan submitted by Mr. Gilbert for the treatment of the proposed plaza south of the State, War

and Navy Building for the First Division Memorial. The Commission felt that instead of 120 feet, as at first suggested, the monument should be in the center of a plaza at a point 85 feet south of the north curb of the street immediately to the south of the State, War and Navy Building, and that the platform of the monument should be on a level with that street. The Commission recommended that, upon the First Division receiving authority to erect the monument there, surveys be made of this area.

11. LAMP POSTS - WASHINGTON BARRACKS: Captain George E. Lamb, Office of the Quartermaster General, appeared before the Commission with a location plan for lamp posts to be erected at the Washington Barracks. The Commission recommended the Millet lamp post used on the streets of Washington. As for making any change in the treatment of the grounds, the Commission advised that this should be considered in connection with the plans for the development of the War College grounds, made by McKim, Mead and White, and which are gradually being carried out.

12. WOODHULL MEMORIAL FLAGPOLE: Mr. Moore stated that he had been officially informed that the Secretary of War has approved the erection of the proposed Woodhull Memorial Flagpole for Arlington, to be erected near the Arlington Amphitheater. The flagpole has been designed by Mr. Hastings, and is to be erected by the Quartermaster General of the War Department.

On May 30th the Commission adjourned at 1:00 p.m. to attend the Dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in the afternoon. The Dedication was one of the very greatest ever held in Washington, and was attended by fully 50,000 persons. Chief Justice Taft presided at the Dedication and the President of the United States made the principal address. Among the guests of honor were Mr. Henry Bacon, architect of the Memorial, Mr. Daniel Chester French, sculptor

of the Statue of Lincoln, Mr. Jules Guerin, the artist of the mural decorations and Hon. Robert Lincoln, son of the President. The reflecting pool contained water for the occasion and visitors saw for the first time the Washington Monument and the Memorial reflected in the basin. The reflection of the entire Lincoln Memorial in the evening as it could be seen from Seventeenth Street was very beautiful. The Commission had as their guests during the Dedication a number of the former members of the Commission and leading sculptors and artists of this country, among them Mr. Cass Gilbert, architect, Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape architect, Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, architect, Mr. Herman MacNeil and Mr. Adolph Weinman, sculptors; also Dr. Howard Du[illegible]field, of New York City, and Mr. Homer Saint Gaudens.

C O P Y

June 1, 1922.

Sir:

I have to inform you that at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held in Washington, D. C., May 31, 1922, Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary, was appointed Acting Secretary, Executive and Disbursing Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts, effective July 1, 1922. The following is a copy of the Resolution:

> "RESOLVED, That Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary, be hereby appointed Acting Secretary, Executive and Disbursing Officer, of the Commission of Fine Arts, effective July 1, 1922, and he is directed to enter into sufficient bond to cover these duties."

As it is the intention of the Commission to place at the disposal of Mr. Caemmerer an amount not exceeding $1,500 per quarter, it is recommended that the penalty of the bond be fixed at $2,000.

As Acting Secretary Mr. Caemmerer will have charge of the office of the Commission of Fine Arts, with all the duties incident to the position of a secretary of an Independent Establishment of this Government. He will have charge of the correspondence and the records of the Commission and of the accounts with the Treasury Department. In addition he will make all necessary arrangements for and report the proceedings of the Commission of Fine Arts at their official meetings, which are held in Washington, D. C., on the average of once a month. Mr. Caemmerer will make all purchases for the Commission and will attend to such other duties as may require attention in the office of the Commission.

Very respectfully, yours,
/c/ Charles Moore,
Chairman.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Treasury.

EXHIBIT A

COPY

June 2, 1922.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 31, 1922, considered the designs submitted for the Dominican Campaign Medal. The Commission found the designs without artistic merit and they advise that, pending the ability of the Department to set apart a sufficient sum to secure a proper design, no medals be executed.

The whole subject of securing medals good in design has been considered during the past five or six years and several medals have been designed that compare favorably with the valor medals of other nations. One of these is the Distinguished Service Medal of the Navy, a photograph of which is enclosed.

The designs submitted for the Dominican Campaign Medal are evidently the work of people untrained in the medallic art and its requirements and the Commission feel that it would be better to have no medals than to have ill-designed ones. Moreover the designs submitted are merely pictures on paper and the resulting medals would not look like the pictures. The designs are returned to you herewith.

Very respectfully, yours,
/s/ Charles Moore
Chairman.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Navy.

EXHIBIT B.

C O P Y

June 5, 1922.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting May 31, 1922, gave consideration to the design which you submitted by letter of May 16th for a monument to be erected in Arlington National Cemetery by Major Otto W. Gralund.

The Commission disapproved the design. In this connection the Commission wish to call attention to the types of acceptable monuments recommended for Arlington by the Commission, as shown in the enclosed copy of a Report of the Commission on Page 61. The Commission suggest the adoption of one of these monuments in preference to the one proposed.

The Commission suggest that a scale model be submitted of any further design that may be selected and a location plan of the site proposed in Arlington for the monument.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ Charles Moore
Chairman.

Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief,
Graves Registration Service,
War Department.

EXHIBIT C.

COPY

May 31, 1922.

My dear Mr. Porter:

Your letter of May 18, relative to a proposed Ericsson Museum under the monument has caused serious concern. The same subject came up in connection with the use of the space under the Lincoln Memorial, and was decided in the negative. It was thought that the proper place for Lincoln relics was in the National Museum; and the same is true for the Ericsson. The idea is that the value of the monument should not be lessened by making it serve a utilitarian purpose. Moreover, the people interested will seek memorials in the repository for such memorials and not in the base of a monument.

The proper place for the 12" gun seems to be at the Naval Academy, where it serves a double purpose as both a memorial and also an educational exhibit.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ Charles Moore

Chairman.

Mr. H. F. J. Porter, Chairman,
Delamater Ericsson Commemoration,
29 West Thirty-ninth Street,
New York City.

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

June 2, 1922.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

At your request the Commission of Fine Arts on May 31st inspected the model of the monument to the Unknown American to be erected in front of the Amphitheater.

The model was prepared under the direction of Thomas Hastings, the architect of the Amphitheater, and in form and mass is approved by the Commission. The sculptural adornments at the top should be restudied with a view to simplification.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ Charles Moore

Chairman.

Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief,
Graves Registration Service,
War Department.

EXHIBIT E.